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Contact: Ali Littman
Larson Communications
(760) 803-9989

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD KANSAS CITY FINDS FACILITY FOR CAMPUS IN HEART OF MIDTOWN

The school's central location will make it easily accessible to families from a broad spectrum of socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds

Kansas City – [Citizens of the World Kansas City \(CWCKC\)](#) today announced it has entered into negotiations for a centrally-located Midtown building, which will become the campus for its new K-1 elementary school opening this fall. The new school will bring a high-quality public school option to an area that has seen a number of campuses close and families move to other neighborhoods in search of better schools for their kids.

CWCKC will focus on providing an economically, culturally, and racially diverse student population with a challenging academic program. Located at 3435 Broadway Boulevard, the campus is situated on major thoroughfares linking east and west Midtown along Armour, as well as the north and south Midtown along Broadway. Families in neighborhoods stretching from Westside, Coleman, Highlands, Hyde Park, Ivanhoe and Mt. Hope, among others, will be able to access the campus by car, bus, bike or on foot.

“The new Citizens of the World campus marks a major milestone in our efforts to bring high-quality schools to Midtown, with the intentional purpose of bringing together, under one school roof, members of a community that has been segregated for far too long,” said CWCKC Executive Director Dr. Kristin Droege. “We were thoughtful about being accessible to all families in the community, because we believe that in order to reach their full potential, students need to interact with people from different backgrounds starting from a young age. Our hope is to raise a generation of children who recognize that our differences make us stronger as a community of learners, so we can build lasting connections across our diverse neighborhoods.”

The campus is being designed to accommodate CWCKC’s unique curriculum and to foster a learning environment that acknowledges and supports the individual nature of each child’s learning process. CWCKC will include specially designed physical spaces, in addition to classrooms, for small groups of students and teachers to convene. For reading, students will be grouped based on skill level rather than age, allowing them to learn what they need, when they need it, in a physical space that is specifically created for small group work.

In its first year, CWCKC will have 12 K-1 classrooms for up to 288 students. The campus will expand to add six more second grade classrooms the following year, serving a total of 432 K-2 students by fall 2017. The facility is being financed through nonprofit lender and real estate consultant IFF in partnership with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. CWCKC is negotiating a long-term lease with IFF with plans to eventually purchase the facility.

CWCKC was brought to Kansas City by the [Kansas City Midtown Community School Initiative](#) (MCSI), a group of Midtown parents and community members committed to providing better public school options for families in the Midtown neighborhoods of Kansas City who were leaving for better schools outside the community.

MCSI's goal was to find a partner that would bring schools to the historically segregated region that reflected the socioeconomic, racial and cultural diversity of their town in order to develop a strong community and urban core. MCSI members believe that quality schools are critical to creating vibrant neighborhoods because they promote economic development, neighborhood stability and community growth.

"We are thrilled that CWCKC has found a new campus that is being designed specifically for the success and growth of our children," said Kristin Littrell, co-leader of MCSI. "We believe our new campus will encourage more families to live and stay in Midtown by offering them an accessible, high-quality school, focused on bringing together our community."

Citizens of the World Kansas City is part of a public charter school network that currently serves more than 1,800 children across five schools in California and New York, 60 percent of whom are students of color and half qualify for free and reduced lunch. Citizens' school model reflects the inclusiveness and diversity as well as the academic rigor that parents value, while helping students realize their full potential and become true citizens of the world.

About Citizens of the World Charter Schools

Citizens of the World schools challenge students to realize their full potential and thrive in a diverse society. We are tuition-free schools open to all, committed to serving diverse communities throughout the United States with schools currently in Los Angeles, New York and Kansas City. We develop sophisticated thinkers who master content and have a courageous and compassionate sense of responsibility for themselves and all people. Our schools are in strong demand: in 2015, we had 10 times more interest than space. Learn more at <http://citizensoftheworld.org/>.

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